

Regents Recap

Highlights of the Activities and Official Actions of the Louisiana Board of Regents

June 2007

Student Body Presidents Elect Council Officers, System Board Representatives

Louisiana's Council of Student Body Presidents (COSBP) elected its 2007-08 officers and representatives to the various higher education system management boards on May 14.

COSBP is a statewide organization of public college and university Student Government Association and Student Bar Association presidents organized under the guidance of the Louisiana Board of Regents. The group works to help ensure that Louisiana's colleges and universities remain responsive to the needs of students and that student opportunity for academic and career success is optimized.

"COSBP members play a variety of roles in helping shape postsecondary education policy. They are valuable resources who facilitate communication between Louisiana's college students and our postsecondary education management boards," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "Student Government Associations and Student Bar Associations have always been a critical component of our efforts toward continuing improvement at Louisiana's public colleges and universities."

The 2007-08 COSBP officers and board representatives are as follows:

COSBP Chair: Carey Ash – Southern University A&M – Baton Rouge
COSBP Vice-Chair: Jamaul Amedee – Southern University – New Orleans
COSBP Secretary: Julie Heffron – South Louisiana Community College
Board of Regents Student Board Member:
James Klock – Louisiana State University -Alexandria
LSU System Student Board Member:
Cassie Alsfeld – Louisiana State University A&M – Baton Rouge
SU System Student Board Member:
Afi Patterson – Southern University A&M – Law Center
UL System Student Board Member: Olinda Richard – Nicholls State University
LCTCS System Student Board Members:
Cedric Hampton – Baton Rouge Community College
Mark Conley – Louisiana Technical Community College
Board of Regents Advisors – Harold Boutte, Connie Koury

**The next Board of Regents
meeting will be held
August 22- 23, 2007**

Regents Recognize Governor Blanco for Higher Ed Support

At its June meeting, the Board of Regent formally recognized Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco for her steadfast support of Louisiana's public colleges and universities, particularly as reflected in the historic appropriation for higher education in her 2007-08 Executive Budget. The 2007-08 state budget, recently passed by the Louisiana Legislature, includes the largest single-year funding increase for public higher education in a generation. This investment brings all of Louisiana's public colleges and universities up to a funding level at least matching the average of their peer institutions across the South — a measure of financial support Louisiana's colleges and universities have not seen for more than 25 years. The budget also includes long-overdue faculty salary increases and Louisiana's first significant need-based financial aid program for moderate- and low-income students.

The Regents adopted a resolution detailing Governor Blanco's many contributions to public higher education. The governor, who attended the meeting, received a standing ovation from those attending the meeting.

"Education is the mortal enemy of poverty," said Governor Blanco. "I don't believe we solve this chronic problem with another poverty program. Education is the investment that will move us forward. I encourage you to target these historic investments wisely and to ensure that our colleges and

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Pat A. Strong
Chair

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Mary Ellen Roy

William Clifford Smith
Victor T. Stelly
Harold M. Stokes
Roland M. Toups
James Klock
Student Member

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Board Action - June 27-28, 2007

Program Approvals

The Board of Regents approved the following proposed new academic programs and progress reports on conditionally-approved programs:

Proposed New Academic Programs:

Baton Rouge Community College - A.A.S. in Science Technology; A.A.S. in Entertainment Technologies
Southeastern Louisiana University - B.S. in Sports Management

Progress Reports on Conditionally Approved Programs/Centers:

Delgado Community College - A.A.S. in Veterinary Technology
University of Louisiana-Lafayette - Center for Business and Information Technologies

Regents Approve Funding Recommendations for Endowed Professorships and Additional Endowed Chairs

At the Board of Regents' June 2007 meeting, John Wallin, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Administration, reminded the Board that at its April 2007 meeting, it deferred action on the disbursement of FY 2006-07 Endowed Professorships awards until the Board could discern the total availability of funds for this program component. At the same meeting, the Board also awarded \$2.8 million for funding proposals ranked first through fourth and those ranked sixth and seventh in the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program.

In addition, Wallin informed the Committee that the Commissioner had obtained a supplemental appropriation from the Legislature that will enable the funding of all 175 Endowed Professorships applications submitted in FY 2006-07 as well as the ten Endowed Chairs not funded at the April meeting. He also noted that several institutions have not yet responded in writing to the stipulations contained in the consultants' report.

Regents Approve First-Generation Scholarship Program

The Board of Regents approved the implementation of the Board of Regents Support Fund Endowed Undergraduate Program for First-Generation College Students. The purposes of the program are to increase college access and success for low-income first-generation college students, to enhance institutional efforts to provide need-based gift aid to undergraduate students, and to provide additional opportunities for benefactors to support Louisiana's colleges and universities. Under the program, \$100,000 scholarship funds will be set up at participating institutions, with 60% of the funds raised by the institution from private donors and a 40% match provided by the Regents from the constitutionally-established Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF), sometimes referred to as the "8(g) fund."

The program was originally approved by the Regents in 2005, but it was never implemented because of budget cuts resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Blanco (from page 1)

universities can sustain the level of educational quality and research excellence that will keep Louisiana competitive for generations to come."

"With this historic investment, along with her many other expressions of support for education at all levels — from LONI to pre-K to high school redesign — Governor Blanco has secured her place in history as Louisiana's education governor," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie.

For more information about these and other Board of Regents actions, please visit our web site at www.regents.state.la.us